



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Press Service



WASHINGTON, D. C.

RELEASE FOR PUBLICATION  
NOVEMBER 28, 1930 (FRIDAY P.M.)

REDINGTON REPORTS PROGRESS  
IN PROTECTION OF WILD LIFE  
-----

Discussing wild-life administration from

N the national angle, Paul G. Redington, Chief of the Bureau of Biological  
Survey, in his annual report, which Secretary Hyde of the Department of  
E Agriculture made public to-day, details the activities of the bureau which  
include wild-life research and conservation, control operations, fur-farm-  
W ing, refuge establishment and maintenance, and enforcement of laws pro-  
tecting wild life. The report covers the fiscal year ending June 30, 1930.

S "Research in the relationships, habits, production, control, and  
conservation of wild life," says Mr. Redington, "is essential and funda-  
mental. Reservations must be set aside for the long-time benefit of the  
wild life that is more and more being crowded off its ancient feeding,  
S breeding, and resting grounds by ever-increasing human occupation.  
Regulation of the use and enjoyment of wild life is essential to the im-  
U mediate welfare of species that would otherwise be hunted to the point  
of extermination. Control operations directed to suppress the depreda-  
M tions of predatory wild animals may also be termed an essential form  
of regulation, necessary both for the conservation of useful and harm-  
less wild life and for economic reasons as well."

The Bureau of Biological Survey conducts special wild-life surveys and cooperates with other bureaus, organizations, and individuals as requested. This bureau also becomes a clearing house for information on the needs, habits, control, propagation, and relationships of the various forms of vertebrate wild life other than the fishes. The principal activity of the bureau, from the time of its organization 45 years ago, has been the study of the wild birds and mammals of the country, extending, with the passage of years, to work for their conservation and control, and their propagation and utilization.

Mr. Redington stresses the increasing interest in conservation which constantly makes it more evident that wild-life administrators--Federal, State, and local--must be ever alert for the welfare of the species under their guardianship. Their chief responsibility, he says, is to protect the wild life itself. They are the duly constituted guardians of the various species, and must be true to the trust imposed upon them, having due regard for economic considerations. "In spite of any pressure that may be exerted by organized groups and by individuals having special interests at stake," he says, "administrators should perform their duty fearlessly and without favor. Necessary measures for wild-life conservation or control must be taken when dictated by thorough and careful investigation and consideration of all factors involved."

Mr. Redington cites as some of the evidences of progress the fact that during the year food-resource surveys of proposed migratory-bird refuges have been completed on 189 units in 48 States, aggregating more than 3,700,000 acres, and their biological suitability determined; and that land-valuation surveys, preliminary to purchase agreements, have been made on 40 of these units in 24 States, involving approximately 1,225,000 acres. As recommended by the Biological Survey, the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission has authorized the first two purchases of areas under the new migratory-bird refuge program, and two additional areas of public domain similarly recommended for the same purpose have been reserved. In furtherance of the refuge program, Congress authorized \$250,000 for the establishment of the Cheyenne Bottoms (Kansas) Migratory Bird Refuge, and surveys therefor were begun by the bureau under a special appropriation of \$50,000.

EDITORS:-- The additional details below are  
for publications desiring more particulars.

The report includes references to the following activities which the bureau regards as significant:

Inauguration of a program of research on the relations of wild life to the forests, including their game, fur-bearing, and predacious inhabitants.

Ordering from an experienced collector in Greenland for the delivery in this country of an initial herd of 34 musk oxen for restocking areas in Alaska.

Participation in the International Fur Trade Exposition and Congress at Leipzig, Germany.

Extension of cooperative predatory-animal control to the Lake States at the request of Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, where wolves, coyotes, and bobcats have been destroying game and livestock.

Publication of a technical report on red squill as a raticide, which is making possible the preparation of a uniformly toxic product for rat control that does not seriously endanger livestock.

Reduction of the bag limits on ducks and geese, to begin with the fall season of 1930, as a measure immediately necessary for wildfowl conservation, and its favorable reception by the people generally.

Imposition of a record fine upon a violator of the migratory bird treaty act-- \$2,700 for killing 90 eider ducks, which the Federal law protects by a close season throughout the year.

Creation of a committee of five members of the United States Senate, all well known for their interest in wild life, to investigate and report on measures for the conservation and replacement of land and aquatic wild-animal life.

Studies by the Biological Survey have shown that damage to duck-food plants from salt and sewage contamination has caused diminution in food supply. The

report cites that on the Albemarle & Chesapeake Canal now not a hundred wild geese or swans are found where there were formerly a thousand, and not one duck where there were ten thousand when the food supply was at its best.

"To control the various species of vertebrate animal pests," Mr. Redington states, "calls for a broad program of investigation so that field workers may apply up-to-date methods that provide essential safeguards. Such predatory animals as coyotes, wolves, bobcats, and mountain lions, and an occasional stock-killing bear, cause heavy monetary losses in livestock and destroy much valuable game every year. Prairie dogs, ground squirrels, rabbits, porcupines, woodchucks, rats, mice, and other rodents destructive to forage, growing crops, stored hay, and foodstuffs are found in all parts of the United States. Occasionally, also, gregarious species of birds become economically injurious-- notably, in some localities, crows, magpies, and starlings. Research in methods of control is conducted in a laboratory of the Biological Survey at Denver, Colo., and in field tests by a staff of technical men working in conjunction with control operators, and-- in the case of most birds-- by economic ornithologists detailed from the Washington office."

The Biological Survey has not been able to meet all the demands for assistance that have come from States where predatory animals levy their annual toll on the livestock interests. In addition to killing sheep, calves, pigs, and poultry, the predators are also a great menace to wild birds and to such game mammals as deer and elk. Prairie dogs, ground squirrels, and jack rabbits cause serious losses annually in the Western States, but these do not compare in monetary values with those sustained east of the Mississippi River through depredations of house rats. In some areas pine mice and pocket gophers are exceedingly destructive also. In consequence the demand for assistance in rodent control has become nation-wide. It has not been possible for the Biological Survey to render direct assistance in response to all requests received but no request has gone without attention.

The services of the Biological Survey have been based consistently upon cooperative agreements with livestock, agricultural, or conservation organizations in the States where its representatives have been stationed. As an indication of the general spirit of cooperation between the bureau and other agencies interested in this line of work, Mr. Redington reports that \$1,528,565 was made available during the past fiscal year by States, counties, agricultural organizations, and individuals to help carry on the control campaigns in cooperation with the Biological Survey.

In closing his report, Mr. Redington discusses the difficulties that confront the Biological Survey in administering the regulations under the migratory bird treaty act. A strengthening of the enforcement arm is essential, he believes. The increasing use of automobiles, motor boats, and airplanes to reach the hunting fields and to aid in such illicit practices as market gunning, night shooting, the snaring of ducks, and other violations has added immeasurably to the task imposed on the regular field force, consisting of only 25 United States game protectors.

"The need for a force of game protectors, carefully trained, ably supervised, and sufficiently numerous adequately to enforce reasonable restrictions and thus to control the yearly kill of wild fowl," said Mr. Redington, "is so important as to warrant its consideration as an emergency requirement. Each passing season records increasing disregard on the part of game-law violators for the Federal regulations designed to protect migratory birds. This deplorable condition results from the general knowledge that in this matter the Federal Government is not fully equipped to carry out its obligations. Many law-abiding sportsmen and citizens who are interested in the preservation of American wild life are outspoken in their opinion that the Government is negligent of this resource, and they view the future of our migratory birds with dismay and discouragement."

That the generous efforts of Federal and State Governments to establish

wild-fowl sanctuaries and to eliminate and control disease and predatory creatures, will prove futile if the illegal killing and sale of migratory game birds is not reduced far below the present totals was a point stressed by Mr. Redington. "This can be accomplished," he says, "only through the agency of an enforcement personnel numbering not less than three protectors where there is now one, and consisting of officers equipped with facilities to enable them to encounter the willful violator on somewhat equal grounds. Material help would be afforded if all persons would use their influence to encourage observance of the law, and would report violations without favor."

Despite the comparatively limited efforts that the Biological Survey has been able to exert in the enforcement of Federal bird-conservation laws, by reason of its small force of game protectors, Mr. Redington points with satisfaction to the fact that it has been active in disseminating information on the needs in the matter and has enjoyed the support and cooperation of many State conservation commissions, sportsmen's organizations, and individual conservationists. "Game-law administration," he says, "is thus not confined entirely to the apprehension and prosecution of violators, nor to the enforcement of other provisions of such laws. The dissemination of information of educational value may be of even greater importance in the scheme of conservation than are arrests and convictions. The United States game protectors and other field men of the Biological Survey constitute a most valuable educational force by reason of their varied personal contacts and the opportunities afforded them of addressing meetings of sportsmen and others, and of discussing at first hand matters affecting hunting conditions, game-law enforcement, game replacement, and conservation in general."

-----WT-----